

nurses being sent by the American Red Cross to the American hospital at Yvetot.

Miss Lilly herself is going to France for the especial purpose of assisting Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. Carrel now has been detached from work at the Lyons hospital and placed by the French Government in charge of a hospital at Compeigne, which is near the northern line of battle.

For the use of the patients in charge of Dr. Carrel and his assistants, the Government has requisitioned a hotel which has been converted into a hospital with accommodations for about one hundred persons. The Government will provide administrative officers as well as competent surgeons suggested by Dr. Carrel, to carry on the regular work, thus leaving Dr. Carrel free to perform his characteristic operations, especially in the line of transplanting tissues, blood vessels and nerves, and blood transfusion, and to conduct the laboratory studies which are about to be undertaken.

In order that the work under Dr. Carrel may not only be of the greatest effectiveness at the moment, but may be made permanently available to the world of science, the Rockefeller Institute is equipping Dr. Carrel's hospital with complete apparatus for research in the bacteriological, pathological, chemical and surgical conditions which may arise.

Dr. Carrel, who was spending his vacation in France at the outbreak of the War, immediately offered his services to the French Government, which were accepted. He was detailed to the military hospital at Lyons, at which there were referred to him especially the wounded with injured blood vessels and nerves, in view of the research work which he had done in these classes of injuries. From the application of the method which he discovered for suturing and transplanting blood vessels and tissue, it was possible to save limbs which otherwise would have inevitably been lost. Dr. Carrel has now been given special facilities as near as possible to the line of battle, because of the unusual conditions which have developed in this conflict incident to trench warfare.

It had been supposed that all future wars would yield small numbers of infected wounds. The facts, however, are that no previous war has yielded such a large number of infected wounds as the present one.

The reasons for this under the old conditions are developed to be as follows: poor hygienic facilities, infection of the wounds caused by the surgeons who carried the infecting germs on the operating instruments, dressings, etc., the introduction of infected material from without at the time of injury, were the sources of infection. In the present case the infections occur because the injured in trenches receive their injuries from missiles which carry dirt and soiled clothing into wounds; and also because in many cases it is days before the injured can be removed. The infections have also been of an unusual character. Formerly they were usually suppuration and pus formation. Now they are commonly due to the development of gas in the tissues and to tetanus, or lock-jaw.

This gas infection is very serious in form. It originates in bacteria of the soil, particularly soil which has been under a high state of cultivation for a long period of years. The technological term applied to the condition is gaseous phlegmon. The bacteria which cause it do not grow except in the absence of atmospheric air which the injured tissues provide. In their growth they break up the constituents of the tissues and impart a gas in which hydrogen forms a large part. This gas penetrates the tissues and carries the infected material further and further and may penetrate

into the blood, when it soon causes rapid death.

Hitherto this class of infection has been so rare that adequate means for its prevention and cure have hardly been worked out. It is in order that he might have access to this class of cases, now, unfortunately, so numerous, that Dr. Carrel has been transferred to the northern field of war. It is in order that, in addition to the regular routine work of the care of the wounded, he may study these infections especially, he is being provided by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research with the medical equipment requisite for this work.

In carrying out the enormous work incidental to military operations, one government alone could hardly undertake at this critical period to organize hospitals and laboratories for conducting research work. They must be quite content to deal with conditions as they arise. It is just there that Dr. Carrel's peculiar qualifications come in, and in that respect that the contribution of the Rockefeller Institute is largely made.

Hence it is that he is to have a staff consisting of bacteriologists, chemists and technicians, forming a laboratory unit in addition to the regular surgical unit of the hospital. He is fortunate in being joined by Dr. H. D. Dakin, who has been for many years in this country and has a distinguished reputation as a chemist. He has been assigned to take charge of the chemical part of this humane work of investigation.

The Rockefeller Foundation has just voted an appropriation of \$20,000, to be used under the direction of the Rockefeller Institute, in furthering medical research work under war conditions.

The Institute has had many appeals made to it for serum for use in the treatment of meningitis and dysentery, and these serums have been distributed freely.

NOVOCAIN.

Treasury Department,
Washington, February 26, 1915.

To Collectors of Internal Revenue:

The question as to whether novocain and similar preparations come under the provisions of the Harrison Narcotic Law as synthetic substitutes for cocaine is now under consideration. Until this question is fully determined, novocain and similar preparations, the exact character of which has not been fully established, will not be held as coming within the scope of this law.

Respectfully,

DAVID A. GATES,
Acting Commissioner.

NEW MEMBERS.

Robertson, J. C., Modesto.
Saunders, G. C., Turlock.
Kennedy, W. N., Ceres.
Neff, Enoch, Ceres.
Bell, Frank, San Diego.
Langstroth, Lovell, San Francisco.
Sproat, Samuel McCoy, Portola, Cal.
Gardner, J. M., Lodi.
Meyers, J. J., Lodi.
Stagner, C. E., French Camp, Cal.
Bolinger, H. J., Stockton.
Brace, Robt. Walter, Modesto.
Cartwright, S. W., Ceres.
Griswold, C. H., Modesto.
Hosmer, J. E., Modesto.

DEATHS.

Collar, A. J., Yreka, Cal.
Plymire, H. G., South San Francisco.
Simmons, Adam B., Chino.
Hasenbalg, Wm., Castro Valley, Cal.
Rogers, Lewis S., San Pedro.